Negroes, Courses on, in Schools, etc - 1938

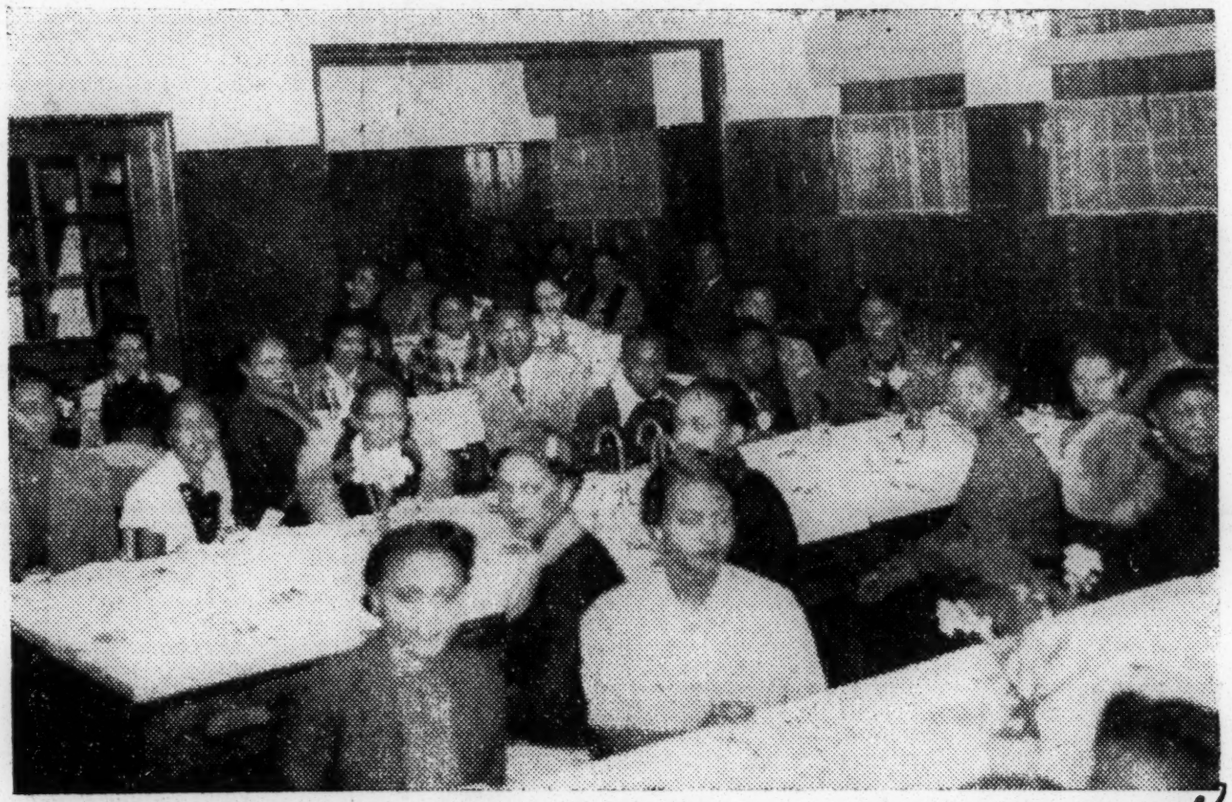
# Negro History Course To Be Given At City College By Dr. Yergan

The School of Education of the College of the City of New York announces that beginning February 9, 1939, it will give a course on Negro History and Culture with Dr. Max Yergan as instructor.

The course for which a nominal fee will be charged will be known as History 168 and will be a 30-hour, 15 sessions course for which students will be given two credits. The course will be given on Thursdays from 4:10 to 5:50 p. m., in room 1114 of the 23rd street building.

According to the college announcement "This course traces the early civilization of the Negro tribes in Africa and the cultural effects of the contact of European civilization with the African races. There follows an account of the Negro in America from colonial days to the present time. The course concludes with the consideration of the contributions of the Negro to American culture and an examination of the problems confronting the Negro today."

# As BTW Was Host To Tennesseeans



—The thirty-one students who form the Negro history study group at Tennessee State College, Nashville, are shown here as they were entertained at luncheon in the cafeteria of the Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta, late Friday afternoon. While in the Gate City they made an inspection of the various colleges and business establishments. Pictured at left at the special faculty table during the luncheon are l-to r, Vice Principal O. N. Cornell of Washington High who acted as host; Prof. Merle R. Epps, who was in charge of the group, and Mrs. Epps. (SNS staff photos)

Negroes, Courses on, in Schools etc. — 1938

# Now It Can Be Told How Johnson Went to N. Y. U.

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RALEIGH, N.C. — The inside story of how James Weldon Johnson, professor of creative literature at Fisk University, was named visiting professor at New York University, was related publicly for the first time during the 70th anniversary celebration of St. Augustine College here, last week.

Dr. E. George Payne, assistant dean of the school of education, New York University, who spoke here Thursday night, is the man responsible for Dr. Johnson's appointment.

**Wanted Colored Man**

"Four years ago," he said, "I wanted a colored man to be visiting professor at N.Y.U. I wanted James Weldon Johnson, not because he is a colored man, but because I believed him to be capable of bringing to our school something that no other individual, regardless of race, could bring.

**"News of his selection created a furore. Reporters from the daily papers besieged me. 'Will he eat at the faculty club?' they asked. and 'will he enjoy the same privileges and courtesies as the other professors do?'**

"I replied that he most certainly would. Professor Johnson came and was accepted as any other member of the faculty. I saw nothing strange about his coming and in selecting him never gave his color a thought, but there were others who did. Here is an example of what can be done when you have someone trained to do the job you want.

**Rivals Shake Hands**

"The other night I sat with a friend in Madison Square Garden and saw a northern basketball team with a colored player, meet a white team from the South. Knowing that in basketball it is customary for opponents to shake hands, I wondered what would happen when the white Southerner came face to face with his colored rival.

"They shook hands, however, with all of the cordiality that might have been demonstrated had they been of the same racial group. I turned to my friend and said: 'Well, the athletic situation seems to be solved—at least as long as they play in the North.' "

# Fight For Negro History Course In California Schools

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(ANP)—Agitation for placing Negro history in the schools of California was again brought to public attention last week with the publication of a lengthy letter from one of the leaders in the movement in the California Eagle, oldest colored weekly west of the Rockies, and owned by Mrs. C. A. Bass, militant leader of the race here for more than a quarter of a century.

Mrs. Bass devoted her entire column, "On the Sidewalk," to a discussion of the letter, disagreeing with the writer's opinion that there should be a "class" in Negro history, the veteran publisher said in part:

"The contribution of Negroes have not been of limited racial application, therefore, I cannot perceive why these 'Black Man's Gifts' should be studied independently. What we should fight for is an appropriate recognition in the regular, compulsory history classes for both teachers and pupils.

" . . . The work of men like Frederick Douglass, Booker H. Washington, Wm. DuBois, and James Weldon Johnson did not affect Negroes alone, but dealt its greatest impact upon the consciousness of the nation as a whole . . . "

At a meeting of the California Youth Model Congress in San Francisco early this summer, a resolution was adopted to ask the state legislature to pass a bill placing the teaching of Negro history in the curricula of California schools.

It was also learned that a proposal has been made to the Los Angeles Board of Education to have special lectures on the place of the Negro in American Life, which was turned down by the city superintendent of schools and the chief of the curricula division.

## Harlem School To Teach Race History

NEW YORK, Sept. 16—Special courses on the race question, the colonial question and American history, stressing the important role that the Race has played in the historical development of the United States, will be taught at the Harlem People's school this fall and winter, it was announced this week.

# HARLEM SCHOOL GETS NEGRO HISTORY CLASS

## May Get Course in All Schools

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 23—(ANP)—The first Negro History Library ever to be installed in the city school system here, was dedicated Thursday before 2,000 cheering white and colored students at Harlem Evening High school.

Efforts of Dr. Charles E. Thallusen, principal, Morris Feld, assistant and Dr. Willis N. Huggins over a course of years culminated in the installation.

More than 700 students enrolled in the Negro History club, bringing to over 1,000 the membership. This is the largest Negro History club in any city in America.

Recommendations have been made to the board of education to make African History studies, a duly accredited course in all Harlem schools and make it required reading in all social study courses throughout the whole system.

Students are divided into five groups who meet at least one nite a week at the school and every Sunday at the Y. W. Dr. Huggins is instructor.

Col. B. O. Davis, commanding officer of the 369th Regiment, has been invited to address a class on "Military History of the Negro."